

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Subject: Community First Programme.**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. In November 2012, a request was made by Councillor Stewart Golton for Scrutiny to review how Community First funding (Neighbourhood Match funding element) is being administered within Leeds.
2. Community First is a £30m programme funded by the Office for Civil Society on behalf of the government and delivered by the Community Development Foundation. Whilst acknowledging that the governance and accountability arrangements for the Community First programme were not the responsibility of the Council, the Scrutiny Board agreed to hold a working group meeting to discuss the issues surrounding this particular funding programme, including those raised by local Community First Panels, with a view to providing feedback to the Office for Civil Society.
3. A report summarising the Scrutiny Board's observations in relation to the Community First Programme was agreed by the Board in March 2013 and forwarded to the Office for Civil Society. The Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd MP, has since written to the Chair of the Scrutiny Board in response to the Board's report. This is therefore attached for Members information. A further copy of the Board's final report is also attached for reference purposes.

**Recommendations**

4. Members are asked to note the attached letter from the Minister for Civil Society in response to the Board's report on the Community First Programme.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

5. None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.